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NOVEMBER CITY COUNCIL ELECTION RESULTS

A familiar face and four new representatives will make up the Bloomington City Council beginning January 2014. Jack Baloga (District III) was reelected to his seat in the November General Election. Cynthia Bemis Abrams was elected to the Councilmember At Large District seat, Dwayne Lowman was elected to the District I seat, Andrew Carlson was elected to the District II seat and Jon Oleson was elected to the District IV seat.

According to City Clerk Janet Lewis, 13,822 ballots were cast during the November 5, General Election which equates to a 25.8 percent voter turnout.

"The City values residents' responsiveness in local government and for taking time to exercise their right to vote on Election Day," Lewis said. "The City appreciates the dedicated individuals who provided excellent service to the voters as election judges working in the City's 32 polling places."

Councilmembers will be sworn in at a City Council meeting on Thursday, January 2, 2014.

Longtime Councilmembers Karen Nordstrom, Vern Wilcox and Steve Peterson did not run for reelection in their respective districts and will be profiled in the February *Briefing*.



Councilmember At Large

Cynthia Bemis Abrams, a self-employed public relations and leadership consultant, was elected to serve as Councilmember At Large. Bemis Abrams is a 49-year Bloomington resident. She is a member of the Bloomington Chamber of Commerce and Bloomington Sister City Organization. She is a former member of the Bloomington School Board.

"Bloomington, like every city, must work to keep its residential neighborhoods and its retail and commercial areas fresh and vital," she said. "I look forward to being part of outreach efforts that engage, educate and inspire our citizens and businesses to work together for a more prosperous future."



Councilmember District I

Senior Workforce Scheduling Analyst Dwayne Lowman was elected to serve as Councilmember for District I. Lowman, a 29-year Bloomington resident, is former chair of the West Bank Community Coalition and former board member of the National Youth Leadership Council.

"I believe that past residents and leaders of the city did an excellent job of promoting and preserving Bloomington's fiscal vitality," he said. "I also believe that the sun is still shining on our city's future and our best days lie ahead of us."



Councilmember District II

Andrew Carlson, a project manager with a background in economic development, was elected to serve as Councilmember for District II. He received his master of business administration degree from the University of St. Thomas and currently serves as a Bloomington Housing and Redevelopment Authority commissioner. Carlson and his wife have lived in Bloomington for eight years. They have two young daughters.

"I am privileged to serve the people of Bloomington," he said. "I will continue the tradition of providing strong leadership and fiscal responsibility by collaborating with the Mayor and other councilmembers to provide clear, results-driven information to residents."



Councilmember District III

Retired commercial real estate developer Jack Baloga was reelected to serve as Councilmember for District III. Baloga is former chair of the Bloomington Planning Commission and member of the Highway 77 Policy Advisory Committee and Highway 169 Advisory Committee. Baloga, a 27-year Bloomington resident, has also served as an election judge.

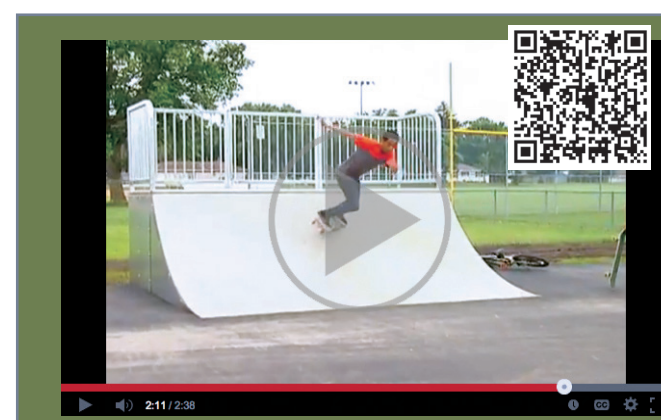
"I look forward to contributing to the continued growth and redevelopment of the South Loop, Penn American and Normandale Lake districts and providing more housing opportunities for our seniors," he said.



Councilmember District IV

Bloomington Planning Commission member and retired public school teacher and administrator Jon Oleson was elected to serve as Councilmember for District IV. Oleson and his wife Sandy have been active members of the community since they moved to Bloomington in 2003. Oleson has been a member of the Bloomington United for Youth board, co-chair of the Teen Job Fair and a mentor to teens at his church.

"It's time to honor the hard work so many have put into keeping their homes and yards in good shape," he said. "The Council must aggressively plan, with residents and business owners, redevelopment and new development in District IV."



SMOOTH SKATING AT VALLEY VIEW

Take a tour of the new skate park at Valley View Playfields, 9000 Portland Avenue South, with Bloomington Parks and Recreation Supervisor Kari Hemp. The skate park surface was paved by Bloomington Street Maintenance. The park opened to the public in July.

WEBSITE KEYWORDS: SKATE PARK.



MAYOR’S MEMO HERE’S TO OUR HEALTH!

By Mayor Gene Winstead

One of the City’s ongoing goals has been to provide greater opportunities for physical activity and access to fresh fruits and vegetables. The City accomplishes this goal through a variety of programs and services it provides and through community partnerships and grants. For the past four years, Bloomington Public Health has used funding from the Statewide Health Improvement Program (SHIP) to explore ways to make Bloomington a healthier place to live, work and play. SHIP is part of Minnesota’s health reform law that funds projects to achieve long-lasting environmental and policy changes supporting a healthy lifestyle. These projects target the top three preventable risk factors for chronic disease: tobacco use and exposure, poor nutrition and physical inactivity.

I’m proud to announce that the cities of Bloomington, Edina and Richfield recently received a grant of \$886,000 from the State of Minnesota to continue funding SHIP initiatives in the three cities over the next two years. The funds will help Bloomington Public Health work with residents to continue to make Bloomington a healthier place to live, work, learn and play, where it’s easy to be active, eat healthy foods and avoid exposure to tobacco.

New initiatives include:

- Share findings from the Bloomington community food assessment and implement recommendations to increase the accessibility and affordability of healthy foods.
- Partner with VEAP, Loaves & Fishes and other emergency food programs to provide healthier options, and education opportunities and to encourage regular donations of fresh foods to their facilities.
- Assist childcare providers to incorporate healthier foods into their menus and more physical activity during the day.
- Work with area dental clinics to assist patients who want to quit using tobacco.

Initiatives that will be continued include:

- Increase healthier food and beverage options in City-operated concessions such as Bloomington Ice Garden, Bloomington Family Aquatic Center and Dwan and Hyland golf clubs.
- Continue to support schools that have established gardens and farm-to-school initiatives.
- Work with community partners to increase bike parking, bike sharing programs and other amenities that make it easier to use active transportation for short trips.
- Assist work sites in adopting sustainable changes that support healthy eating, physical activity and tobacco-free living.

For more information, contact SHIP Coordinator Ruth Tripp at 952-563-8742.

WEBSITE KEYWORD: SHIP.



OLD CEDAR AVENUE BRIDGE TO BE REHABILITATED

The Bloomington City Council voted in September to approve a full-scope rehabilitation of the historic Old Cedar Avenue Bridge. By a 5-2 vote, the City Council abandoned the City’s longtime goal of replacing the 1920 bridge, choosing instead to rehabilitate it at an estimated cost of \$12.7 million. This decision was made after additional state funds were allocated and the federal government indicated that it would not approve a replacement bridge.

The rehabilitated bridge will provide a link to the growing network of trails in Hennepin and Dakota counties located in the Minnesota River Valley. The bridge could be reopened as soon as fall 2015.

Built in 1920, the bridge was closed to vehicle traffic in 1993. However, it remained open to pedestrian and bicycle traffic until it was deemed unsafe for use in 2002. Ownership of the Old Cedar Bridge was transferred to the City by the State of Minnesota in 1981 after the new TH-77 bridge was built.

For more information, visit the City’s website.

WEBSITE KEYWORDS: CEDAR AVENUE BRIDGE.



BRIEFING

Volume 21, Number 6

The *Briefing*, published bimonthly by the City of Bloomington, is mailed to our residents and businesses. Direct comments and requests for Braille, larger print or computer disk to Communications Administrator Janine Hill, 1800 West Old Shakopee Road, Bloomington MN 55431-3027; PH 952-563-8819; TTY 952-563-8740; FAX 952-563-8715; E-MAIL jhill@ci.bloomington.mn.us. Website: www.ci.bloomington.mn.us

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The City of Bloomington complies with all applicable provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and does not discriminate on the basis of disability in the admission or access to, or treatment or employment in, its services, programs, or activities. Upon request, accommodation will be provided to allow individuals with disabilities to participate in all City of Bloomington services, programs, and activities. The City has designated coordinators to facilitate compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), and to coordinate compliance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 as mandated by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development regulations. For more information, contact the Human Services Division, City of Bloomington, 1800 West Old Shakopee Road, Bloomington, MN 55431-3027; 952-563-8733 (Voice); 952-563-8740 (TTY).

Upon request, this information can be available in Braille, large print, audio tape and/or electronic format.

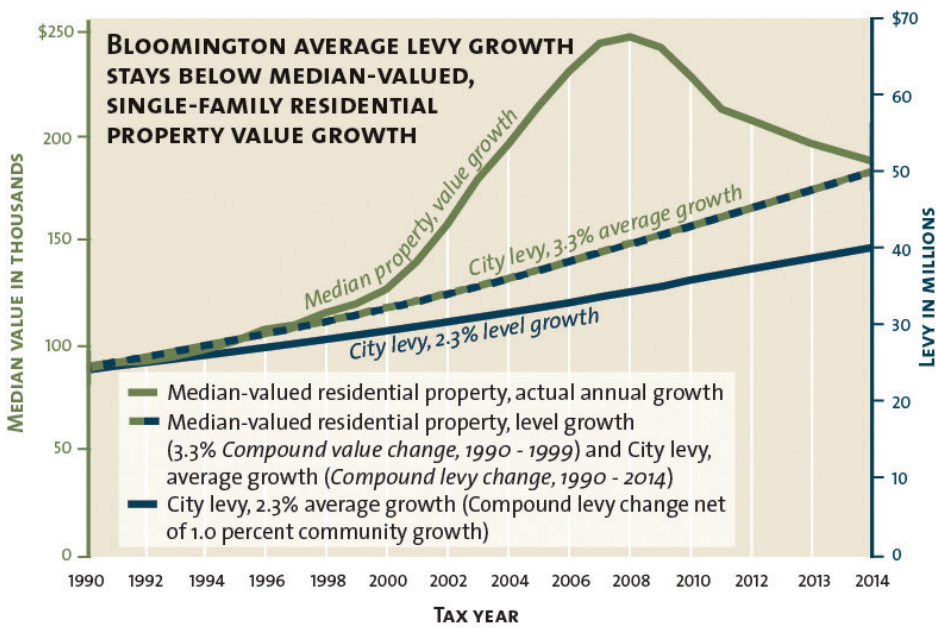
2014 GENERAL FUND BUDGET

In 2014, the monthly cost of City services for owners of median-valued homes of \$188,000 will be \$67.82 for 2014 – the same as 2011 and 2012. This is the eighth year in a row at or below \$67.82.

On September 9, the City Council approved a preliminary levy of \$48,143,066 for 2014. It also approved a preliminary general operating fund budget of \$61,527,748, a 3.22 percent increase from the 2013 budget. Between September and December, the Council was able to reduce the proposed levy increase from 3.22 percent to 3.12 percent. The increase results in a \$48,096,425 levy. The General Fund Budget now proposed is \$61,599,872.

The City uses multiyear modeling, developed in the 1990s, to track revenue and expenditures to predict upcoming trends for 2014. City staff also uses a five-year planning model that considers both the short-term and future needs of the community to recommend a preliminary levy. In providing quality City services that meet public demand, the City continues to be cost effective. In a 2013 resident survey, 72 percent of respondents thought that the value of City services for taxes paid was excellent or good.

The preliminary levy can be reduced, but not increased, before final adoption. If the 2014 levy is approved at this revised level, the average annual



increase in the City's levy from 1995 - 2014 would be 3.17 percent.

One of the City's strengths has been the diversity of the tax base with which City services provided to Bloomington's residents and businesses are allocated. Historically, tax capacity in Bloomington has been split in half between residential, including apartment uses, and commercial/industrial uses. However, the current economic climate has seen greater variability of real estate values than in better economic times.

"The City levies an exact dollar amount needed to maintain certain levels of services," Chief Financial Officer Lori Economy-Scholler said.

"This dollar amount is portioned to all properties in the community based on value."

The City's multiyear modeling indicates that property tax levies over the next five years should remain approximately equal to long-term home value appreciation plus community growth as Bloomington works for the longer term to be even more sustainable.

For more information, contact Chief Financial Officer Lori Economy-Scholler at 952-563-8791 or e-mail leconomy@ci.bloomington.mn.us. For property valuation information, contact City Assessor Matt Gersemehl at 952-563-8708 or mgersemehl@ci.bloomington.mn.us.



COURTESY BIG STOCK

DID YOU KNOW? PROMINENT HOUSE NUMBERS SAVE LIVES

Every second counts during an emergency situation. That's why it is so important that first responders are able to find your location by easily seeing your house number. Without a visible and legible address posted, it can be very difficult for police officers, firefighters and paramedics to respond to an emergency call. According to Bloomington City Code, every residence should have a legible address number visible from the street in front of the property. The code also states that address numbers should contrast with their backgrounds and be a minimum of four inches high. Trees and brush should be kept clear of the address. A light illuminating the number during nighttime hours is also recommended.

NAVIGATING A DIVERGING DIAMOND INTERCHANGE

The rebuilding of the interchange at I-494 and 34th Avenue as a diverging diamond interchange was completed and opened to traffic in November. Diverging diamond interchanges simplify traffic operations by eliminating conventional left-hand turns that require drivers to cross lanes for oncoming traffic by shifting drivers to the left side of the roadway between the signalized ramps. This allows right and left turn movements to the freeway entrance ramps to occur unopposed and without stopping. Here are a few tips to help you navigate the diverging diamond:

- Follow the signs, signals and pavement markings through the interchange. As you approach the first traffic light on 34th Avenue the road will curve slightly to the left.
- As you travel through the first traffic light, you will be shifted from the right to the left half of the road.
- To continue along 34th Avenue, stay on the left side until you reach the second traffic light that shifts traffic back to the right side.
- All left turns onto the freeway are free flowing, meaning vehicles do not have to stop to access the ramp. You can make a left turn onto I-494 without stopping for a traffic light or oncoming traffic.
- Right turns onto the freeway are free flowing.
- Pedestrians and bicyclists travel through the interchange using the sidewalk on the east side of 34th Avenue.

For more information, check out this video by clicking on the QR code below or visiting the City's website.

WEBSITE KEYWORDS: DIVERGING DIAMOND.



UPDATE YOUR HOME

The Bloomington Housing and Redevelopment Authority (HRA) is accepting applications



COURTESY BIG STOCK

for its Home Improvement Deferred Loan Program. The loans help residents maintain the condition of their homes and neighborhoods. Loans of up to \$35,000 are available to Bloomington homeowners. There are no monthly payments. Principal and interest repayment occurs when the home is sold, transferred or is no longer occupied by the owner. Interest is charged at an annual simple rate of 4 percent per year on the original loan principal for the first 10 years. No additional interest accrues after the 10th year.

Eligible repairs include replacing roofs, electrical, heating and plumbing systems, gutters, windows, doors, insulation and siding.

To qualify for a Home Improvement Deferred Loan, you must own and occupy your home; the home must be at least 10 years old and you must have sufficient equity to cover the loan amount. A lead risk assessment is required for all homes built before 1978. Maximum gross income limits apply. For more information, visit the City's website. Funding is limited for 2013-2014.

WEBSITE KEYWORDS: HOME LOANS.

SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT

How much trash do we generate? Are there ways we could all recycle more? How can we reduce the amount of litter and waste created in Bloomington?



These are just a few of the questions the City intends to answer with the development of the Bloomington Solid Waste Management Plan. One of the goals of the plan will be to address viable options for improving recycling and solid waste management in Bloomington. Options may include:

- Improving recycling services in apartment buildings, parks and other City facilities.
- Yard waste collection and composting.
- Tree/brush trimming collection and composting.
- Appliance collection and processing.
- Collection of food waste and other compostable organic waste.
- Handling and recovery of construction and demolition materials.
- Improving recycling and trash collection efficiency.
- Reducing wind-blown litter.
- Reusing furniture, clothes and other items that could be donated to charitable organizations.
- Moving the City toward “zero waste” in the future.

The plan will be used as part of the City’s compliance with Hennepin County grant funding for Bloomington recycling programs. The City has retained the consulting services of Foth Infrastructure & Environment, LLC, to assist City staff with technical components of the plan.

For more information, contact Project Manager and Deputy Director of Public Works Jim Gates at 952-563-8730 or e-mail solidwastemanagementplan@ci.bloomington.mn.us.



WE WANT YOUR INPUT

The City wants your input on recycling and trash. Open houses to gather public input are currently being scheduled. Check the City’s website for details and look for a survey for residents and businesses on the City’s website coming soon.

WEBSITE KEYWORDS: SOLID WASTE.



EARTH ACTION HEROES

FACILITIES MAINTENANCE: SHINING A LIGHT ON ENERGY SAVINGS

In an effort to save energy and inch closer to the City’s sustainability goals, Facilities Maintenance employees have spent the past year replacing hundreds of old incandescent and halogen lights at Bloomington Civic Plaza’s campus with energy-saving and energy-efficient LEDs. Lights were replaced in Bloomington Civic Plaza’s Schneider Theater and Inez Greenberg and Atrium galleries. The Police garage and City Council Chambers are the next areas to be converted.

“We still have some areas around campus that have yet to be converted,” Facilities Maintenance Supervisor Scott D. Anderson said. “Our goal is to convert all incandescent lights to LEDs by 2014,” he said. “It’s a somewhat long process. Because the hardware is always changing, we are constantly reevaluating new products.”

According to Anderson, the City tested eight different LEDs before arriving at the perfect size, fit and color for the spaces. Anderson estimates that the change will save the City nearly \$5,000 per year in electrical costs. The LED fixtures also last longer. Unlike typical incandescent bulbs that last one year, the LEDs last for up to six years, which greatly reduces maintenance costs.

The switch has been a welcome one for artists who display their work in the galleries. Anderson said this could be because the LEDs shine a more natural white light that gives a truer representation of the artwork on the walls.

“We’ve heard some very positive feedback from artists,” he said. “The yellowish glow of the incandescent lights against the white walls and artwork was considered harsh and certainly not ideal for gallery exhibits.”

The City has long strived to be a leader in environmental consciousness, energy conservation and sustainable objectives. For more information on the City’s green initiatives, visit the City’s website.

WEBSITE KEYWORD: SUSTAINABILITY.

DON’T FLUSH THAT WIPE

Pre-moistened “disposable” wipes that are often advertised as flushable are being blamed for clogs and backups in the City’s sewer system. Bloomington Wastewater Supervisor Randy Poore said the wipes may go down the toilet, but even those labeled flushable aren’t breaking down as they move through the sewer system. The problem could eventually result in costly repairs to the City’s sewer mains and service lines.

“We’re seeing an increase in clogs to service lines because these wipes are snowballing and blocking sewage from flowing freely,” Poore said. “Pumps at lift stations can also become jammed, potentially creating sewer backups or slower sewer flow.”

The problem isn’t unique to Bloomington. According to Poore, an increase in the marketing of “flushable” cleansing wipes as more sanitary than toilet paper alone is causing greater consumption of the wipes and, as a result, more sewer backups across the county.

Other items that should not be flushed are paper towels, baby diapers and wipes, feminine hygiene products and medical bandages.

Poore said there’s an easy test residents can do to see if their wipe is truly flushable.

“Put the wipe into a bucket of water,” he said. “Does it break apart and dissolve? If it doesn’t, it shouldn’t be flushed down the toilet.”





Police vehicles through the years: Chevy Bel Air, 1950s; Chevy Biscayne, 1960s; Ford LTD, 1970s; Crown Victoria, 2003; and Ford Interceptors, 2013.

NEW POLICE VEHICLES HIT THE STREETS

Police cruisers experience a lot more wear and tear than most vehicles, which is why each year the Bloomington Police Department replaces roughly half its fleet with newer models. In 2013, for the first time in more than 10 years, the department began replacing older vehicles with a new model of police cruiser. The decision to replace the entire fleet with Ford Interceptor sedans and SUVs was made after Ford announced it was discontinuing the department’s current Crown Victoria model. The Police Department evaluated four different vehicles for space, durability, reliability and cost. According to Sergeant John Martin, the Ford Interceptors were chosen because they have wider seats to accommodate equipment, all-wheel drive and better fuel efficiency than other models. The last time the Police Department replaced its patrol fleet was in 2003, when it made the switch to black and white cruisers.

TOP 5 FLU MYTHS

? MYTH #1: YOU DON’T NEED A YEARLY FLU SHOT.

Fact: The flu vaccine isn’t like other vaccines with longer-lasting protection. Even if you had a flu shot last season, you will need another this year.

? MYTH #2: THE SEASONAL FLU IS ANNOYING, BUT HARMLESS.

Fact: The flu (influenza) is a contagious disease that affects the lungs and can lead to serious illness, including pneumonia. While pregnant women, young children, older people and people with certain chronic medical conditions like asthma, diabetes and heart disease are at increased risk of serious flu-related complications, even healthy people can get sick enough to miss work or school.

? MYTH #3: HEALTHY PEOPLE DO NOT NEED A FLU VACCINE.

Fact: Anyone can become sick with the flu and experience serious complications. Healthy kids, teens and adults can get the flu and become very ill from it. Flu viruses are unpredictable, and every season puts you at risk. Besides, you might be around someone who’s at higher risk from the flu, such as a baby, pregnant woman, your grandparents or even a friend. You don’t want to be the one spreading flu.

? MYTH #4: THE FLU VACCINE ISN’T SAFE.

Fact: Flu vaccines have been given for more than 50 years and they have a very good safety record. Flu vaccines are made the same way each year and their safety is closely monitored by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Food and Drug Administration.

? MYTH #5: THE FLU VACCINE CAN GIVE YOU THE FLU.

Fact: It is impossible to get sick from the flu vaccine because the injected vaccine only contains dead viruses, which cannot infect you. People who experience flu vaccine side effects may believe it is the flu. Side effects of the vaccine tend to be a sore arm and low fever or achiness. Those who experience flu-like symptoms after being vaccinated may have been exposed to a non-flu virus before or after being vaccinated.



PRACTICE SAFE FOOD HANDLING AND STORAGE

When preparing food for your special holiday event, remember that there may be an invisible enemy ready to strike: foodborne bacteria. Lots of people and little time during the busy holiday season can create opportunities for mishandling food and contamination. After the big party, remember to handle leftovers safely. Follow these tips:

- Make sure that anyone who helps in the kitchen knows the basic food safety rules – clean, cook and chill.
- Encourage everyone to wash their hands with warm water and soap for 20 seconds before and after handling food.
- Sponges and kitchen towels can easily soak up bacteria and cross-contaminate kitchen surfaces and hands. When food preparation gets hectic, it can be safer to use paper towels; dispose of them after each use.
- Throw away all perishable foods, such as meat, eggs and casseroles, left at room temperature longer than two hours.
- Whole roasts, hams and turkeys should be sliced or cut into smaller pieces or portions before storing them in the refrigerator or freezer.
- Refrigerated leftovers should be consumed within four days.

Remember: When in doubt, throw it out! For information, visit www.FightBAC.org.



MEET A VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTER

Bloomington Fire Inspector Lance Stango has been a volunteer with the Fire Department for five years.

Q. What made you decide to become a firefighter?

A. I was always interested in fighting fires, the equipment and helping people. I ended up getting a house close to Station 3 in east Bloomington and the rest is history.

Q. Are any of your family members firefighters?

A. No, but I have three uncles who are police officers.

Q. What’s the scariest fire you’ve fought?

A. We had a fire on Nicollet Avenue once where people were jumping out their windows and into the snow. That was pretty scary.

Q. What do you do when you’re not working?

A. I like to golf, hang out with my friends and eat big steaks.

Q. What’s the one tool you can’t work without?

A. My thermal imaging camera. It helps us locate hot spots.

PUT THE FREEZE ON WINTER FIRES

Heating equipment is one of the leading causes of home fires during the winter months. In fact, half of all home heating fires occur in December, January and February. According to a National Fire Prevention report, heating equipment was involved in an estimated 53,600 reported home structure fires nationwide in 2011.

Make sure you check these items off your list before the heating season begins.

- Have your furnace inspected and serviced by a qualified professional every 12 months.
- Contact a qualified professional to clean and inspect your chimney and vents.
- Use only dry, seasoned firewood in the fireplace.
- Use a metal or tempered glass fireplace screen.
- Use only portable space heaters with automatic shut-offs.
- Plug portable space heaters directly into an outlet and place at least three feet away from anything that can burn.
- Test smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors.
- Make sure children know to stay at least three feet away from the fireplace and space heaters.
- Dispose of cooled ashes and coals by placing them in a metal container and wetting them down. Keep the container outside your home and away from combustible materials.

For more information, contact Fire Marshal Laura McCarthy at 952-563-8965.

CITY COUNCIL SEEKS ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS

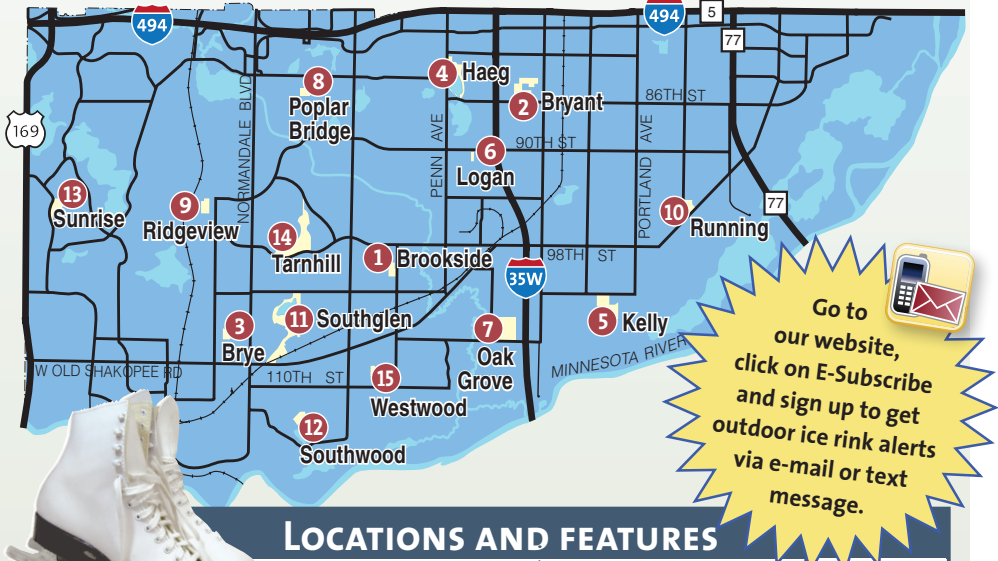
The Bloomington City Council is seeking applicants to serve on its Advisory Board of Health; Human Rights Commission; Park, Arts and Recreation Commissions; and Planning Commission. Applications must be received by Friday, December 20, for consideration.

For more information, contact the City Manager’s Office at 952-563-8780.

WEBSITE KEYWORDS: ADVISORY BOARDS.

2013-2014 OUTDOOR SKATING RINKS AND
WARMING HOUSES

Parks and Recreation will operate 15 outdoor ice skating rink sites this winter. During rink hours, all facilities will be lighted with the exception of Logan Playlot. Some sites are supervised by Parks and Recreation employees during public skating hours. (*See below.*) Weather and ice conditions permitting, **park shelters will be open Saturday, December 14, 2013, through Monday, February 17, 2014.** For more information, contact Parks and Recreation. For up-to-date rink conditions and closings, visit the City’s website or call 952-563-8878 and select option 3.



LOCATIONS AND FEATURES

PARK	ADDRESS	STAFFING	RINK		
			General	Hockey	Floodlights
1 Brookside	10000 Xerxes Ave. S.	Daily	•	•	•
2 Bryant	1001 W. 85th St.	Wknds, SRD	•	•	•
3 Brye	10500 Xavier Ave. S.	Wknds, SRD, Special	•	•	•
4 Haeg	8301 Penn Ave. S.	-----*	•	•	•
5 Kelly	185 E. 102nd St.	-----*	•	•	•
6 Logan	1900 W. 91st St.	-----*	•		
7 Oak Grove	1301 W. 104th St.	Wknds, SRD	•	•	•
8 Poplar Bridge	4600 W. 85th St.	Wknds, SRD, Special	•	•	•
9 Ridgeview	6001 W. 94th St.	-----*	•	•	•
10 Running	9501 12th Ave. S.	Daily	•	2	•
11 Southglen	10701 Rich Road	-----*	•	•	•
12 Southwood	4800 Terracewood Dr.	-----*	•	•	•
13 Sunrise	9401 Blmgt. Ferry Rd.	Daily	•	•	•
14 Tarnhill	9650 Little Road	-----*	•	•	•
15 Westwood	3490 W. 109th St.	Daily	•	2	•

RINK HOURS

DAY OF WEEK	REGULAR	SCHOOL RELEASE DAYS (SRD)
	Dec. 14 - 22 Jan. 4 - 19, 21 - 26 and 28 Feb. 2 and 4 - 16	Dec. 23 - Jan. 3, 20 and 27 Feb. 17
M-F	4 p.m. - 9 p.m.	1 p.m. - 9 p.m.
Sa-Su	1 p.m. - 9 p.m.	1 p.m. - 9 p.m.

- Lights on at rinks during scheduled hours.
- PLEASE NOTE** Special hours for staffed rinks are 1 - 7 p.m. on the following days: December 24, 25 and 31, 2013. January 1, 2014. (Bryant and Oak Grove sites will be closed on these dates). 1 - 5 p.m., Feb. 2, 2014 (Super Bowl Sunday).

**Staffed on a volunteer basis only. Schedules are posted at sites. To volunteer, contact Jackie Doncavage at 952-563-4949.*



CELEBRATE THE
SEASON WITH
WINTER FETE

Join Bloomington Parks and Recreation and local sponsors in welcoming winter during the 12th annual Winter Fete celebration, taking place throughout the city, Saturday, January 18, through Sunday, January 26. The City will host the Annual Pond Dakota Winter History Festival on Sunday, January 26, and other exciting events during this weeklong celebration. All activities are free, unless otherwise noted, and fun for the whole family! For more information, call Parks and Recreation at 952-563-8877.

WEBSITE KEYWORDS: WINTER FETE.



WATER POLO IN WINTER?

That’s right! Bloomington Parks and Recreation is pleased to introduce the greatest game you have never played – at least not during the winter. Players float on an inner tube while playing this fun variation of traditional water polo in a pool. League play begins Thursday, January 9, and runs through Thursday, February 27, at Olson Middle School pool. Teams will play an eight-week regular season. Participants must be 18 years or older. For more information call 952-563-8877 or visit the City’s website.



BUMP, SET, SPIKE

The Born Again Jocks volleyball league welcomes men, 55 years and older, of all skill levels. Games are held Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, 9 a.m., at Jefferson High School, 4001 West 102nd Street and Kennedy High School, 9701 Nicollet Avenue. For more information, call Paul Johnson at 612-866-4428.

L’IL FLIPSTERS GYMNASTICS

L’il Flipsters Gymnastics is back again for children ages 30 months to kindergarten. This mobile gymnastics organization provides gymnastics training in a safe and fun environment. New sessions begin every month but will not be held in January. Classes are held at Bloomington Ice Garden, 3600 West 98th Street, Tuesday mornings and afternoons and Friday mornings. Cost is \$30 per three-week session, \$40 for a four-week session, and \$50 for a five-week session.

WEBSITE KEYWORD: FLIPSTERS.

THINK SPRING!



Picnic shelters will soon be available to rent for next year’s picnics, receptions, reunions and meetings. Registration begins January 2 for use April 15 through October 15. Shelters have electricity, grills, restrooms and drinking fountains. City parks offer playground equipment, volleyball and horseshoe courts, trails and softball fields.

WEBSITE KEYWORDS: PICNIC SHELTER RENTAL.

EAST BUSH LAKE PARK

9140 East Bush Lake Road
Shelter 3: Accommodates 200
\$308 + tax

WEST BUSH LAKE PARK

94th Street at West Bush Lake Road
Shelter 1: Accommodates 200
\$233 + tax
Shelter 2: Accommodates 100
\$158 + tax

MOIR PARK

104th Street at Morgan Avenue
Shelter 1: Accommodates 200+
\$233 + tax
Shelter 2: Accommodates 50
\$158 + tax



Groceries with a smile

Kim and Greg plan to do their grocery shopping together, once they're married. They believe married people should do as much together as possible.

And Walsh's understands. At Walsh's Supermarkets we know that young couples expect quality in their groceries, at fair prices, with good service. And that's what we deliver.

A Bloomington landmark for 36 years, Walsh's features low everyday shelf prices, plus extra savings values each week. We have a home bakery, a large selection of quality meats and really fresh fruits and vegetables. We care about our customers. Maybe that's why they call Walsh's "The Friendly Store."



BLOOMINGTON
★ Yesterday ★

Walsh's

9833 Lyndale Ave. S., Bloomington
881-2669

BLOOMINGTON YESTERDAY

WALSH'S: THE FRIENDLY STORE

Walsh's grocery store was a fixture in Bloomington for more than 50 years. After seeing a photo of his father in the October *Briefing*, Gene Christensen sent us this old newspaper clipping about "The Friendly Store" that features his father George Christensen (in white with bow tie). His father worked at the flagship store at 98th and Lyndale for more than 22 years. Walsh's closed around 1976.

CENTER FOR THE ARTS

Located in Bloomington Civic Plaza at the corner of West 98th Street and Old Shakopee Road, the Center for the Arts is a first-class facility housing seven arts organizations. For facility information, call 952-563-8889. For exhibit information and events, visit www.btacmn.org and click on Exhibitions, or call 952-563-8575.

For all theater tickets,
call the Box Office at 952-563-8575.

WEBSITE KEYWORDS: **CENTER FOR THE ARTS.**

GALLERY HOURS

Hours: M - F 8 a.m. - 10 p.m.
Sa 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Su 1 - 10 p.m.

GIFTS IN THE GALLERY



Visit the Gifts in the Gallery annual sale, December 4 - 18, for one-of-a-kind, artist-created gifts for the holiday season. The gallery will be transformed into a holiday shopping "winter wonderland" where 50 excellent artists will display and sell their unique gift items.



BLOOMINGTON CIVIC THEATRE'S PERENNIAL HOLIDAY EVENT

Bloomington Civic Theatre weaves a modern-day New Year's Eve into Hans Christian Andersen's classic fable *The Little Match Girl*.

December 13 - December 31
Fridays and Saturdays, 7:30 p.m.
Saturdays and Sundays, 2 p.m.
Adults \$22 • Seniors \$20 • 25 and under \$17



AN AFTERNOON OF HOLIDAY CHEER

Join the Medalist Concert Band for an afternoon of holiday cheer and help the band support a local charity. No matter what your favorite holiday song, the Medalist Concert Band is sure to play it in this program of contemporary favorites and traditional classics.

Sunday, December 15, 4 p.m.
Adults \$12 • Seniors \$10 • 25 and under \$10



RUTTER'S GLORIA AND OLD-TIME RADIO CHRISTMAS

The Bloomington Chorale presents an old-time Christmas concert. Whether you remember the days when radio ruled the airwaves or read about it in *History 101*, your toes will be tapping.

Friday, December 13, 7:30 p.m.
Saturday, December 14, 4 p.m.
Adults \$15 • Seniors \$11 • 25 and under \$11
(Add \$1 to ticket price at door.)



NOTE-ABLE SINGERS PRESENTS SONGS OF WINTER

Feel the joy of the holidays as you listen to the music of Broadway shows like *Mame*, famous artists like Bing Crosby and old familiar carols that will end the show in a sing-a-long medley.

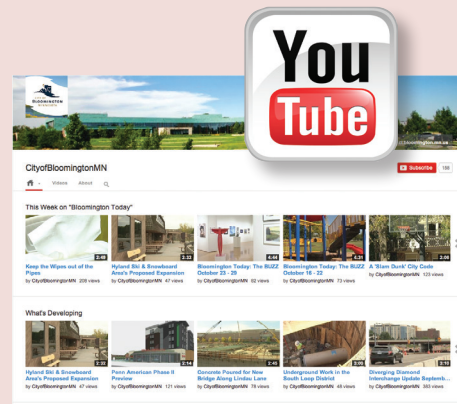
Thursday, December 19, 7:30 p.m.
Adults \$15 • Seniors \$12 • 5 and under free



LET IT SNOW: VINTAGE FILM AND CLASSIC CAROLS

Revisit some of the most well-known performers of holiday pop music of the 1930s through 1950s in rare film clips and take a tour through their song books with Maud Hixson and the Wolverines Trio.

Saturday, December 21, 7:30 p.m.
Adults \$25 • Seniors \$22 • 25 and under \$18





WHAT IS A SNOW EMERGENCY?

A snow emergency is automatically in effect when three or more inches of snow have accumulated. When that happens, no parking is allowed on any city street for the following 48 hours or until the street has been plowed from curb-to-curb. The City’s website, cable channel and social media pages will post alerts.

LATEST SCOOP ON SNOW

For more information, visit the City’s website or contact Public Works at 952-563-8760.

WEBSITE KEYWORDS: SNOW EMERGENCY.

SNOW EMERGENCY SURVIVAL GUIDE

Winter in Minnesota brings snow – sometimes a little, often a lot, but always snow. The City helps residents get through the winter with snowplowing services – at a cost of \$2.41 per month for the owner of a median-valued home. Snowplow operators often start their days at 3 a.m. during a snow event. They plow the most heavily used roads first and then move on to other roads, cul-de-sacs and sidewalks. The City prides itself on its snow removal services. Residents can help the City provide even better service during the snowy winter months by helping out their neighbors as well as themselves. This page shows what you can do before and during a snow event.



PROACTIVE SOLUTIONS TO SAFER ROADS

To make roads safer before snow falls, the City pretreats streets with an anti-icing brine solution. The brine solution, a liquid mixture of salt and water that is sprayed on, prevents ice from bonding with street surfaces. Once the liquid solution is sprayed, it evaporates and leaves behind thin deposits of salt. The salt prevents the bonding of snow and ice to the street so snowplows can scrape the street clean. This process reduces the amount of salt that needs to be applied when streets are plowed. The anti-icing process leaves several stripes of salt behind, making roads that have recently been de-iced easily identifiable.

CLEAR AWAY SNOW



COURTESY BIG STOCK

FIRE HYDRANTS, MAILBOXES AND GARBAGE BINS

The Fire Department asks residents to shovel out the fire hydrants near their homes. Accessible hydrants greatly reduce the time it takes firefighters to douse a fire. Keep your mailbox clear of snow. Mailboxes should not extend past the curb and should have sturdy four-by-four timber posts. The bottoms of the mailboxes should be no less than 45 inches off the ground and located on the left side of your driveway. If it snows on or near collection day, keep garbage and recycling bins away from the end of the driveway and behind the curb. Place containers off sidewalks so snowplows can get by.

PARKING GUIDELINES

Bloomington Police enforce the parking ban in a snow emergency. This ensures that all streets get fully plowed during a snowstorm. To find out

if a snow emergency has been declared, visit the City’s website or call the Snow Emergency Hotline at 952-563-8768.

MOVE CARS OFF THE STREET



DON'T PLAY NEAR THE STREET



CHILD SAFETY

Never allow children to build tunnels or snow forts in snow banks near the street. The force and weight of the snow coming off the plows can collapse the tunnels or forts and may severely harm a child.

Keep sleds and toys out of the street and far away from the edge of the road. Snowbanks make it difficult for plow operators to see children in these areas. Children should never play near the edge of the road.



WAIT TO SHOVEL UNTIL THE PLOWS PASS

MINIMIZE UNSAFE DRIVING CONDITIONS

After a snowstorm, the City makes every effort to clear snow as quickly as possible. Snowplows may plow already shoveled snow into driveways. To reduce the chance you’ll have to shovel more than once, wait to clear the end of your driveway until the plows have completed your street.

SHOVEL, PLOW AND BLOW SNOW AWAY FROM THE STREET

Stake the edge of the sidewalk along your property to help reduce sod damage associated with plowing. The City recommends lightweight wooden stakes such as those sold at most home improvement stores. Mark only the side closest to the house to give plow operators the room they need. (The machines need a minimum 55 inches of clearance.) Keep in mind these markers should be temporary. They should easily give if hit.

KEEP SIDEWALKS CLEAR

Many people rely on sidewalks to get where they need to go. Keeping sidewalks clear of snow and other objects such as recycling bins ensures safe travel for everyone. The City asks that all residents and business owners help in keeping public sidewalks free of fresh snow, as well as any snow that may be deposited as a result of snow removal from streets and driveways. In addition, it is illegal for any vehicle to block a public sidewalk. The city removes snow from 250 miles of Bloomington sidewalks at a cost of 19¢ per month.



MOVE SNOW AWAY FROM THE STREET